

**I. Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 reading:

“The present invention relates to optical communications, and more particularly relates to high bandwidth free space optical communications.”

with the following amended paragraphs:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a U.S. national stage entry of international application PCT/EP2004/13042, filed November 17, 2004, which claims the benefit of the filing date of international application PCT/IT03/00742, filed November 17, 2003.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to optical communications, and more particularly relates to high bandwidth free space optical communications.